



VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP
Meeting Minutes 7:30 PM 6_15_17

Senior Center First Floor Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), David Gabarino (Co-Chair), Brian Hasbrouck, Heather Remoff, Pete Howard (Secretary),

STEERING COMMITTEE: Gordon reported on a recent meeting that discussed Vision 2020 Goals. He provided copies of a chart (Ref 2) that relates each goal to a variety of groups in town that are affected by that goal. Gordon believes that the FRTG goal & the FRTG activities are well aligned. Such may not be the case with other task groups. The chart may serve to relate a resident's interest to the relevant goal & task group. It may be useful at Town Day.

CITIZEN'S CORNER #4: The group discussed a draft line by line leading to a markup, Ref 1. Gordon will incorporate the changes & circulate for comment with the object of submitting for the 6/29 Advocate.

FALL PROJECTS: There was an extended discussion.

Interview the Town Manager about volunteering in Arlington – its importance, what the purposes it serves, volunteer motivations

Citizen's Corner #5, The Enterprise Funds – What they are, how they operate, how they differ from revolving funds.

Interviews with Town leadership. Perhaps make a list of leaders & questions & suggest Advocate follow up. Perhaps follow up ourselves.

NEXT MEETING: 9_21_17

Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Usually in Senior Center

Ref 1 Citizen's Corner #4 Markup

Ref 2 Vision 2020 Goals & links

Citizen's Corner - #4 Arlington's Independent Administrative Offices

Departments

In the first few articles in this series, we provided some history and a general introduction to the Town's administrative and electoral framework, the functioning of Town Meeting and the organization of Town departments as administered by the Town Manager. In this installment we're going to focus on the independent offices/departments of the Town.

The School Department has the largest budget and most employees of all the departments. An elected School Committee is responsible for the hiring of the Superintendent of Schools who, together with staff, carry out the daily administration and operation of the School Department including the hiring of department heads, principals and teachers. The School Committee and Superintendent prepare the School Department's budget that is reviewed by the Finance Committee and submitted to Town Meeting for final approval.

Currently, there are three additional independent offices. The heads of these departments are responsible directly to the voters who elect them. Though small, these departments perform essential services for the Town.

The Town Treasurer and Collector of Taxes is responsible for collecting the various taxes levied by the Town. The largest of these is the real estate tax that accounts for 72% of the Town's revenue. The Treasurer manages the Town's bank accounts and is responsible for selling Town bonds and investing Town funds. An important outcome of these efforts is the Town's Standard & Poor's AAA rating.

The Assessors are responsible for determining the value of each property. With the help of a contractor, they aim to maintain the assessed value of each property at market value. They also decide requests by property owners for abatements. They are assisted in this work by the Director Of Assessments (who is appointed by the Town Manager) and a small staff.

also The Town Clerk is responsible for maintaining a variety of Town records ranging from births and deaths to dog licenses. The Clerk maintains the True List of all residents 17 or older based on an annual census. Another important duty is maintaining the list of registered voters. The Town Clerk supervises the Registrar of Voters. After the schools, the Town Clerk's office is probably the most familiar to residents.

The Vision 2020 Fiscal Resources Task Group embraces and works to help the Town better realize the following Town goal: "We value Arlington's efficient delivery of public services providing for the common good. The benefits from these services and the responsibility of taxation will be equitably distributed among us. We will be known for our sound fiscal planning and for the thoughtful, open process by which realistic choices are made in our Town." We meet monthly and all are welcome to attend.

italics

Vision 2020

